

# The Northfield Press

Layman: a pedestrian who jumped too late.

Volume II, No. 7

Northfield, Massachusetts, Friday, December 13, 1957

Price Five Cents

## Garden Club Will Decorate Library For Christmas

The Garden club members and guests heard Mrs. Blake D. Prescott of East Longmeadow speak on Christmas decorations Monday evening at the Alexander hall. Not only did they hear but they saw and examined a beautiful display of wreaths, door swags, table centerpieces and mantel ornaments. Mrs. Prescott, a past president of the Springfield Garden club, lectures about and teaches this work and is also an artist of note.

She demonstrated the use of many commonplace materials such as wire frames, buttons, coat hangers, discarded nylon hosiery, cardboard, tin cans, wax and even an old umbrella. With these she used pine cones, dried seed pods, leaves and many odd and unusual objects which she collects, and a variety of spray paints to create the beautiful and unusual decorations.

At the business meeting which was conducted by Mrs. Raymond Parenteau, president, the club voted to place Christmas decorations inside the Dickinson Memorial library, the committee to be Mrs. Harry Erickson, Mrs. George Carr and Mrs. George B. Granger. Mrs. Florence Phelps of the book committee announced the purchase of three books, "Complete African Violet Book," "Organic Gardening" and "Gloxinias."

Mrs. Mark Aldrich of the war memorial committee reported that a wreath made by Girl Scouts Carol Atwood, Enid Maynard and Clara Walbridge, will be used to decorate the memorial.

Mrs. Raymond Parenteau and Mrs. Paul Shores were named as chairmen for the traffic island committee and the other members will be named at the January meeting.

The Christmas tree in front of the school is ready to be lighted the last of the week. The work has been done by George B. Granger, Corys M. Heselton and Stanley J. Powers. Townspeople are urged to decorate their homes and yards this holiday season to make Northfield more beautiful.

The speaker of the evening was introduced by Mrs. Walter Bailey of the program committee.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Ross L. Spencer, Jr., and Mrs. Robert Dumbrek.

## Trinitarian P.F. To Decorate Church

The Pilgrim Fellowship of the Trinitarian Congregational church met Sunday evening with 50 present and Tommie Shearer leading devotions. At the business meeting the group voted to decorate the church for the Christmas services. They plan to go Christmas caroling on December 23 at 8 p.m., followed by refreshments and dancing in the church vestry. The Christmas dance decorating committee met at Judy Holbrook's home Sunday afternoon. All will be welcome to help with these decorations on Dec. 26 and 27. Fred Fuller will be in charge of the tickets for this dance. The group voted to send \$10 to the Montgomery, Ala., Improvement association. This is the remainder of the money earned on the "Work Day for Christ," held last spring. Volunteers were asked for to baby sit for the 20-40 Couples Monday evening. Rev. Joseph Reeves spoke on "Keeping Christ in Christmas."

There will be no regular meeting of the Pilgrim Fellowship the next two Sundays. Next Sunday afternoon the Northfield schools vesper services will be held. On December 22 the group will attend the vesper service at their church. Shirley Kelley, Secretary

## Nfld. Schools Plan Christmas Vespers

The annual Christmas vesper service at Mount Hermon School will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4:45 at the Memorial Chapel. Christmas music will be sung by the student body and special choirs augmented by a choral group from the Northfield School for Girls. The vesper service at the Northfield School for Girls will be at the Russell Sage Chapel Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. The doors will be open at 7:45 and admission is by ticket only.

## Annual Christmas Parish Supper Set for Dec. 15

The annual Christmas parish supper for all the folks in the parish and their families or any of the organizations of the Unitarian Church will be held at the Town Hall Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. The Parish Committee is in charge. Each family attending will bring a hot dish or salad or may make a money contribution.

The supper will be followed by a Christmas program by the church school in the church sanctuary at 7 o'clock to which all are invited. There will be music and a Christmas tree.

## 2500 Visit PVRs At "Open House"

Yesterday a great many people, an estimated 2500, visited the new Pioneer Valley Regional school at its "open house." There was a steady flow of visitors from 2 to 9 p.m. with only a slowed up period from 5:30 to 6 o'clock. At times parking space was hard to find.

The beauty and arrangement of the building pleased most and there were almost as many remarks about the beautiful view from the huge windows as about the building itself.

The building is practically complete, a few of the items that remain to be finished are the landscaping, furniture in the lobby, the business machines room, the library, the living room area in the domestic science suite, the teachers' room, stage curtains and lighting fixtures.

Student guides were stationed in each room to give information and answer questions. Superintendent F. Sumner Turner, superintendent, George M. Leonard, principal, and members of the school committee were on hand to greet many of the visitors.

Among some of the features of the building that the committee called attention to are the arrangement of the lobby for use as a meeting place as well as for cloakroom facilities; the location of the library, surrounded by the classrooms and separated from the cafeteria by a glass wall, making possible the use of the tables and space of the cafeteria for overflow, under supervision of the librarian; the arrangement of the music room, stage and auditorium to permit the use of the music room as a preparation room for stage activities, the use of look-through panels in various classrooms to allow pupils to see what goes on in those classes, thus stimulating interest in such courses as chemistry, physics, biology, homemaking, art and typing. These panels also admit light to the hallways and allow better supervision of the hall and the classrooms. The use of ramps instead of stairways is another feature.

Ground was broken March 16, 1956, and by the same date in 1958 the building will be complete. The estimated cost is \$1,440,000. The building is designed to house grades 7 through 12 with a total student body of 550.

## Fire Chief Hudson Advises Extra Precautions Now

At the last meeting of the Northfield firemen there was a discussion of by-laws which are being revised.

Movies were shown of activities of the department including the firemen's muster at the Franklin County Fair, the United Fund Parade in Greenfield and the training program at Fitzwilliam, N. H. There were only two calls on the department in November, one for a chimney fire in West Northfield and a mutual aid call at the time of the Sheldegren Farm fire in Shelburne.

Householders who use bottled gas must have the installation inspected by the fire department and a permit issued by them. Chief Gardner Hudson is making these inspections and will call on Saturdays through this month and next. He advises all to take extra precautions at this time of the year about checking stove pipes, cleaning chimneys and taking care of ashes and rubbish.

## Conn. Valley Youth Meet in Northfield

The young people of the Unitarian church were hosts to the Connecticut Valley Youth Federation on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8. After the 3 o'clock registration a business meeting was conducted by the Federation president, David Billings. A speech of welcome by the local president, Russell Reed, was followed by a talk and discussion groups on the subject of "Dates and Dating," led by Rev. Benjamin Carr, assistant chaplain at Mount Hermon school. A recreational period followed. Supper was served by the local youth group. The meeting was closed with a worship service in which Betty Ware, Russell Reed and Robert Williams took part, it featured a candlelight ritual. Mrs. Eleanor Reed furnished organ music and Rev. Benjamin Carr pronounced the benediction.

The group will not hold a meeting next week but will participate in the church supper and Christmas program to be held that evening.

## Holy Name Society Elects New Officers

At the annual meeting of the Holy Name society of St. Patrick's church George Butinski was elected president of the society. Other officers chosen are: Charles Repeta, first vice president; Thomas Hurley, second vice president; Edward Hurley, secretary; Frank Rockwell, treasurer; Chester Wollander, marshal. Joseph Urganiewicz was awarded the door prize and the subject for discussion was the improvement of the church hall.

## Elected Treasurer

Roy J. Fish of Northfield was elected treasurer of the Franklin County Federation of Church Brotherhoods and Men's clubs on Monday evening at the annual meeting at the First Baptist church in Greenfield. Other officers elected were: Fred Bardwell of Whately, president; Melvin G. Barclay, Greenfield, first vice president; Austin Blood, Turners Falls, second vice president; Donald Stuart, Greenfield, secretary; Paul Hadsell, Warwick, fellowship; Kenneth Prescott, Greenfield, membership.

Rev. Charles A. Bisbee, Jr., of Chesterfield spoke on state legislation and the recent study of the crime commission linking gambling with organized crime.

## Mobile First Aid Station Assigned To Northfield By Mass. C.D. Agency



David N. Amsden, son of Mrs. Mary L. Holton of Mt. Hermon Rd., Northfield has been appointed mail clerk of his recruit company at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Chosen for this position in recognition of leadership qualities displayed while undergoing recruit training, he will, as a recruit petty officer, wear a miniature rating insignia as a badge of authority during the remainder of his nine weeks of "Boot Camp."

The Massachusetts Civil Defense agency is establishing throughout the state mobile first aid stations. Northfield is very fortunate in having such a station assigned to it.

The local Civil Defense organization plans to recruit and train 187 individuals.

The first requirement has been to secure instructors. They have attended an orientation course in connection with their duties as instructors. These instructors are Mrs. Shirley K. Goodwin, R.N., and Mrs. Marion C. Billings, R.N.

The categories of personnel to be trained in these courses are: first aid technicians, orderlies, litter bearers and decontamination technicians. It is hoped to obtain a percentage of trainees from the high school group.

Each course runs for a period of 38 hours, or 19 2-hour sessions. The course will contain

- a. study in protection from biological and chemical warfare
- b. anatomy
- c. physiology
- d. classification of wounds
- e. description and recognition of living
- f. unconscious or fatally injured casualties.

The course continues with control of hemorrhage, classification and treatment of shock, burns, soft tissue wounds and fractures. Also covered in the course is the handling and transportation of the sick and wounded, as well as admittance and discharge of casualties.

Plans are being made to start the first classes as soon after Jan. 2, 1958, as feasible. Personnel desiring to volunteer may contact immediately either instructor, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. Billings or Horace F. Field, local Civil Defense director.

This course is not to be confused with the regular Red Cross first aid course. It must be realized that this training program will be set in motion for disasters.

## Friendly Group Plan Yule Party

The Friendly Group will hold its annual Christmas party at the Hart Nursing home Monday evening, Dec. 16, at 7:45 p.m. There will be a devotional service with scripture reading and carol singing. All women of the church are welcome. Please bring a white elephant gift.

## Nfld. Grange Holds Neighbor's Night

The Northfield Grange met last evening for a neighbors' night with guests from Protective Grange of Brattleboro, Cheshire Grange of Keene, Wantastiquet Grange of Hinsdale, Millers River Grange of Orange and Athol Grange. The visiting Granges presented a program. A talk on and a film about retarded children was shown with John Keefer of Erving, president of the Franklin County Association of Retarded Children, Mr. Amiden of Orange and an officer of the Athol area association and Mrs. Wayne B. Wells of Northfield spoke about retarded children and the work being done for them.

The announcement was made that Mr. and Mrs. Alison Wright, former residents of Northfield, will hold open house on Saturday, Dec. 21, for their 50th wedding anniversary at their present home at 128-4th street, Turners Falls. The Connecticut Valley P o m o n a Grange will meet next Monday evening at the Guiding Star Grange hall in Greenfield. Supper at 7 o'clock, meeting at 8 o'clock with an exchange of 50¢ Christmas gifts.

Refreshments were served by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Holloway, Roger Holloway and Mrs. Etta Cavanaugh.

The Connecticut Valley Covered Bridge society will meet Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Y. M. C. A. gray room in Greenfield. There will be a Christmas party with the exchange of 50¢ gifts. Slides and pictures of summer activities will be shown. The group will sing Christmas carols with Leon Dunnell as pianist.

## Miss Avery Speaks At Fortnightly

Seldom is a group here in Northfield privileged to hear as fluent a speaker and as experienced a traveler as Miss Eunice Harriet Avery of Longmeadow, who spoke to the Fortnightly Friday evening at the Northfield hotel. It was the annual guest night of the club and there were 135 attending. Miss Florence Colby played the piano as the audience was being seated.

Mrs. Ross L. Spencer opened the meeting with greetings and Mrs. Achilles E. Davis, co-chairman of the program committee, introduced the speaker. Miss Avery spoke about the oldest and the newest of the Barbary Coast—Morocco and Libya, giving a brief history of the Middle East from Pakistan west to the Atlantic ocean. She said the world is divided into two parts—the Communist group and the rest of us and Islam is a part of us and must be recognized as such.

She showed beautiful kodachrome slides of these two countries depicting the old and the new—particularly in regard to clothing, occupations, transportation and buildings.

A social time followed with refreshments served in charge of Mrs. F. Wilton Dean, Mrs. Roger Greenwood, Mrs. Harvey Jack and Mrs. Philip Mann, Jr. Door hostesses were Mrs. Edgar J. Livingston, Mrs. George Carr and Mrs. Ralph Sargent.

Subscribe Today  
To The Northfield Press



# The Northfield Press

"The only newspaper in the world devoted to the interests of the Town of Northfield, Massachusetts"

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE NORTHFIELD PRESS  
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DAVID M. STRYKER, *Publisher*      MRS. DOROTHY MILLER, *Editor*  
MRS. EMMA MOODY POWELL, *Correspondent*  
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## CHURCH NOTES

### TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

REV. JOSEPH W. REEVES, *Minister*  
MRS. F. H. MOSSE, *Director of Christian Education*

IRVING J. LAWRENCE, *Choir Director*

MRS. BELLE C. MARDEN, *Organist*

9:45 a.m., church school.  
11 a.m. public worship. Third Sunday in Advent. Sermon subject, "Jeremiah's Thoughts for Today."

Pre-school age children attended the entire hour. Beginning with the second hymn, children of grades 1-4 supervised by students from the Northfield School for Girls.

6:30 p.m., Pilgrim Fellowship meeting cancelled because of the Christmas programs of music at the Northfield Schools.

E. Charles Fowlston, consultant on fund raising for the Massachusetts Congregational Christian conference, will meet with the new church building survey committee Monday at 7 p.m. in the vestry.

The Friendly Group will hold its annual Christmas party at the Hart Nursing home Monday at 7:45. There will be a devotional service with scripture reading and carol singing. Please bring a white elephant gift.

The Women's Guild is holding a silver coffee and Christmas sale at the home of Mrs. W. R. Moody on Thursday from 10 a.m. till noon.

There will be a vesper service of Christmas Bible readings and music in the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 5 o'clock. There will be music by both the senior and youth choirs and the youth band will play.

Those willing to give or loan flowers for the Christmas observance of Sunday, Dec. 22, will please phone the Donald McColletters.

### NORTHFIELD UNITARIAN CHURCH

MRS. L. P. GOODSPEED, *Organist and Choir Director*

RAY A. KNAPP, *Church School Superintendent*

Sunday, 9:45, worship service. Guest speaker, Rev. Benjamin

Carr, assistant chaplain at Mount Hermon school.

9:45, church school for all ages.

The annual Christmas parish supper will be held at the town hall Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. All in the parish and its various organizations and their families are invited. Each family will bring a hot dish or a salad or make a money contribution.

A Christmas program will follow at 7 o'clock at the church in charge of the church school officers and teachers. There will be a Christmas tree and Santa Claus will distribute gifts.

Thursday, 2:30 p.m., Afternoon Alliance Christmas party.

### ST. PATRICK'S Catholic

REV. HENRY MCKEON, *Pastor*

REV. ANTHONY RZASA, *Curate*

9:45, Sunday school.

10:30, Sunday morning mass.

### NORTHFIELD BAPTIST

REV. PAUL L. BUBAR, *Pastor*

SAMUEL A. BISHOP, *Organist*

MRS. RICHARD NEIPP, *Assistant Organist*

MRS. RALPH PERRY, *Pianist*

The Christmas program and tree for the church school will be held at 7:30 on Dec. 23.

Sunday, 8:15 a.m., worship.

10 a.m.—Sunday school, Mrs. William Messer, superintendent.

11 a.m.—Morning worship with sermon.

Nursery and junior church at same hour.

6:30 p.m.—Young People.

7, pre-evening service prayer.

7:30, evening evangelistic hour.

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Bible study.

Thursday evening, "Hour of Power" at 7:30.

### ADVENT CHRISTIAN SOUTH VERNON

REV. EVERETT MOORE, *Pastor*

10:30 a.m.—Morning Worship.

10:30 a.m.—Junior Worship.

11:45—Sunday School.

6:30—Loyal Workers.

7:30—Evening service.

Tuesday evening the basketball team will play the North Leverett Baptist church team.

Thursday, 7:45 p.m., prayer meeting.

Friday, 7:30 p.m., Sunday school Christmas tree program.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

REV. RICHARD GRIFFIN, *Pastor*

MISS HAZEL JOY MARCY, *Organist*

LAURENCE MARCY, *Sunday School Superintendent*

Sunday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Sunday school.

11:30-12:30 p.m., worship service.

3:30 p.m., service at the Bronson Nursing home.

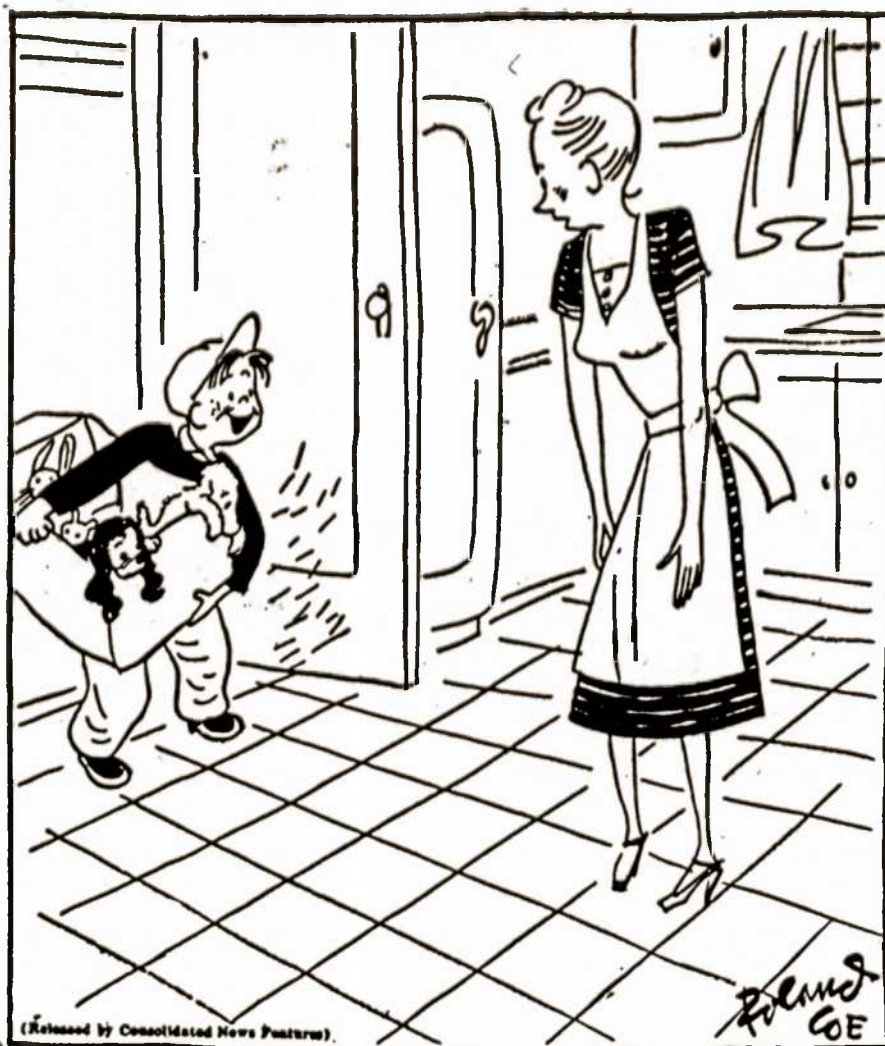
6:15 p.m., Young Peoples.

7:30, Evening service.

Monday, 7:30 p.m., cottage pray-

## CROSSTOWN

By Roland Coe



"I got ride of the kittens like you said, Mom! Traded 'em for two pups, a rabbit and a white rat."

## Northfield D.A.R. Makes Contributions

The Northfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, met Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock as the guests of the regent, Mrs. Robert L. Wood with 15 present.

It was voted to make the following contributions to state and national D.A.R. projects: \$5 to the Tamassii school in Tennessee for a fund being raised for a little girls' dormitory; \$3 for the American Indians; \$2 to the Hillside Home and \$2 to the Kate Duncan Smith project.

Mrs. Roger Greenwood read clippings concerning Communist infiltration and the opening prayer of the U. S. legislature.

Miss Fannie Stockbridge read regulations as to the usage of the American flag.

Mrs. Samuel Bishop read concerning the UNESCO experiment and a list of subversive organizations in this country.

Miss Fannie Stockbridge was named as a delegate to the annual National D.A.R. Congress to be held in Washington, D. C., beginning on April 11.

Mrs. Wood was the speaker of the afternoon and under the title of "Things" spoke of and showed many treasures which she had purchased on her trips to Europe, including many amusing incidents of her travels.

Mrs. Henry B. Prescott and Mrs. Ralph B. Sargent served tea with Mrs. Vernon P. Squires pouring.

Members are to take clippings of interest to the chapter to the next meeting which will be held on March 17 at the Alexander hall. It will be a luncheon meeting and the guest speaker will be Mrs. James Bisslard who will speak on "The Shakers" and show an exhibit.

## Obituary

### Mrs. Alice Gammell

This month at the W. H. A. I. gallery in Greenfield there is an exhibit of 24 paintings by Mrs. Alice I. Gammell, artist, of Colrain.

She paints in the Grandma Moses manner and her pictures are very attractive, framed in weathered wood which is most suitable for Mrs. Gammell's choice of subjects.

The exhibit is open each week day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

er meeting.

Monday evening, State Line Fellowship.

Wednesday evening, Christmas party for the Community Bible church, the Community club and the Sing and Bring club.

Friday, 3:30, Sing and Bring club.

Friday, 7:30 p.m., prayer and Bible study.

Saturday, 10:05-10:30 a.m., Sing and Bring club on WHAI.

## 4-H Tractor Club Adopts New Name

The local 4-H Tractor Club has a new name. The group will be known as the "Fix Now and Save Later Trouble" 4-H Club. At the last meeting they received instructions on fitting a tractor for use — including checking oil and oil pressure, batteries, hydraulic lift and water level. They also were tested on the previous lesson on engines. Meetings are held at Whitney's on Birnam Road with Marshall Lanphear as instructor.

Mr. Walter Bailey was chairman of the garden club committee who has placed lights on the tree on the school grounds. Assisting him were Dr. George B. Granger, Corys Heselton and Stanley Powers, electrician. The lights will be turned on Saturday evening of this week.

Choose a Christmas tree early this year so it will be fresh. Freshness is a state of preservation. With very little care a tree can be kept fresh long after Christmas.

## Classified Ads

Classified rates:  
5 cents per word first insertion;  
1 cents per word subsequent insertions.

BALSAM TREES, DECORATED wreaths, balsam brush for decoration. Call Northfield, tel. 830, Norma Stearns. D13-20

TURN YOUR old cash into real cash—old coins purchased. Call Northfield 638, Wallace Stange.

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## Bronson Nursing Home

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## Social and Personal News Notes of the Northfield Area

**Mrs. Robert Barry Inherits \$200,000**

Ten years ago Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barry came to East Northfield and lived at 41 Highland avenue while he was on the staff of the Northfield School for Girls. When his health broke down, they moved to the Averill house on Main street, and Mr. Barry died there. Recently Mrs. Barry has lived in the Deming apartment on Highland avenue in East Northfield. This fall she moved to 27 Green street, New Canaan, Conn., to be near her children. She has inherited \$200,000 (taxes already deducted), from her sister, Polly, widow of Dr. Theodore Hart, who had his office on Park avenue in New York City.

Mr. Reeves will speak on a theme of county-wide interest at the Pilgrim Fellowship Sunday evening at 6:30: "Keeping Christ in Christmas." At 7:30 the church choir will rehearse for Christmas vespers.

While visiting a flower show in England Mrs. Ralph Barrows took a very good kodachrome picture of Queen Mother Elizabeth.

At the PTA meeting Dec. 11 the Mount Hermon triple quartet will sing. There will be a Christmas story in music by pupils, carol singing, accompanied by Mrs. Gancarz, and refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Barnes have bought a home in Florida and have gone there to stay until May.

Mrs. Sarah Spindler addressed all the Christmas envelopes to our servicemen. The envelope included a New England winter scene at sunset; the November newsletter and newspaper pictures of the Pioneer Valley school from the air and two interiors.

Dr. Mercer and family plan to leave Dec. 10 for a month in Florida visiting relatives.

Frederick H. Briesmaster of the Valley Vista Inn is visiting his brother in Washington, D. C., and two brothers near Richmond, Va. He expects to return to East Northfield before Christmas.

Because of the Franklin County Federation of Men's clubs meeting Dec. 9, the Stateline Fellowship will not meet until Dec. 16.

Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Barton of Fort Lee, N. J., came for a visit with her mother, Mrs. Pearl Allen.

Mrs. H. P. Baker has returned from visits to New Haven and Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Broadhead write enthusiastically of their ten-week trip abroad; the "biblical" scenes in Turkey of vineyards and people on donkeys, the Hilton hotel overlooking the Bosphorus; the Sultan's palace, and the beauty of England, Denmark and Switzerland. When they return to their summer home on the Ridge they will share their pictures with our townspeople.

Saturday evening the young people of the Baptist church had a roller skating party.

Thursday afternoon the community service group of the Northfield School for Girls held one of the parties they give for the children between the ages of three and six (3-6) of East Northfield in Silverthorne hall which is in Stone hall on the campus. Games, plays, prizes and various forms of entertainment were given.

The 20-40 Club of the Congregational church will hold a Christmas party Monday evening in the vestry. It starts with a potluck supper at 7. Carol singing will be led by Mr. and Mrs. Gancarz. There will be an exchange of gifts and square and modern dancing led by C. Weymouth of Greenfield.

John Williams of the Mt. Hermon faculty is taking orders for Christmas decorations which he will deliver. They are for doorways, mantel and windows.

A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Merle Brown in their new home at 21 Court street, Houlton, Me., says that their son writes most enthusiastically of the beauties and kindness of Japan and her people. "They especially like little Michael, our grandson, as he is so fair with blue eyes." He also wrote, "we are sending our copies of the Servicemen's Newsletter to Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Barnard who are happy in their new home in Long Island." Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Barnard formerly taught at the local high school here.

Mt. Hermon vacation will run from Dec. 18 until 7 p.m. on Jan. 7.

**Hermon Fair Huge Success**  
About \$425 was realized at the Mt. Hermon annual Christmas fair held Saturday in the old gymnasium. There were tables of Christmas decorations, handcraft, neckties, white elephants, candy, cakes

and bread made at West hall. A snack bar attracted the boys and their friends from the girls' school in East Northfield, as did the games, fortune telling and pictures taken with Santa Claus, who, as previously, was Chaplain Jim Whyte. Dancing, too, was very popular.

George J. Audet, who has beautifully renovated the house nearest the East Northfield railway station on the east side of the tracks, is to be complimented on having the first doorway trimmed for Christmas.

The Thompkins house on Winchester road is being all done over and the new occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Mackin of Greenfield, plan to move in about the first of the new year.

All the officers of the junior class at the Pioneer Valley school are Northfield residents: president, Dorothy Given; vice president, Richard Leach; secretary, Peggy Streeter; treasurer, Lewis Starkey.

Mrs. Harry McDonald of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, spoke recently in the assembly of the Northfield School for Girls and Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. for St. Patrick's Guild.

The report is that 297 deer were killed in the six-day hunting period in Franklin county in spite of the weather. One man came into town Saturday afternoon and reported that he had just missed a bad accident coming down into Northfield over the road from Winchester. Suddenly a huge deer leaped down a bank beside him, and in avoiding the deer, his car spun around facing the route he had just come over.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shalter Bader went on a skiing and figure-skating trip in Sun Valley as well as making visits in Washington, Philadelphia, Princeton and New York City after their recent marriage. Mrs. Bader is the former Carolyn Smith, whose father, Louis E. Smith, was for many years head of the Mt. Hermon English department. The Baders will live in Denver, Colo.

Miss Molly Malbon, granddaughter of Mrs. W. R. Moody, was one of the young girls who assisted with "Stag Night" at Wilson's store this past week.

Rev. Paul Bubar of the Northfield Baptist church is the new Turners Falls civil air patrol squadron chaplain. He was introduced to the cadets at the Group 2 and Turners Falls squadron meetings at the armory. Mr. Bubar is a pilot and owns his own plane.

Herbert Wood, research chemist for Monsanto Chemical Co. of Springfield, spoke at the Kiwanis supper meeting Monday night.

### To Have Family Party

The American Legion and the auxiliary will have a joint family Christmas party including a potluck supper on Wednesday evening at 6:45 at the town hall. The supper committee members are Miss Esther Ladzinski, Mrs. Doris Bolton, Mrs. Sarah Spindler, Mrs. Bertha Rikert and Mrs. Pearl Allen. There will be an exchange of gifts and each one attending should bring a gift suitable for himself or herself.

The annual Christmas dance, sponsored by this district at the Veterans' hospital at Leeds will be held on Dec. 20. Anyone who would like to go and assist with the program may call Mrs. Pearl Allen for information.

Saturday evening of this week the Bernardsdon Grange will sponsor a public dance at the Bernardsdon hall and a public card party at the Grange hall, both beginning at 8 o'clock.

**Greenfield MONUMENTAL**

George Giovannetti, Prop.  
100 N. FR 2-2748 Greenfield

## Through a Kitchen Window

Our old apple tree is a treasure, like many an apple tree you know. It is a delightful and hospitable host to countless creatures and has great appeal for us.

Trees with very strong expressions are said to have character. And trees with strong characters are usually picturesque. Artists like to paint or draw their irregular and knotty shape. Old apple trees are truly picturesque, and ours is no exception.

Could you find a more familiar and beloved friend of childhood than the apple tree? Its branches seem made to climb in. Birds build their nests in its boughs. It offers fruit to man and lesser animals and provides shade as well. Its wood burns brightly in the fireplace. An apple tree is closer to us than a mountain or the sky and is less elusive than the transient birds that stop by for refueling in its leafy crown. There is a comfortable, unhurried feeling about it. It can be enjoyed and appreciated at leisure.

Attractive at any time of the year, the apple tree is lavish in its display of flowers in the spring. They seem to burst suddenly as though "the rosy apple buds had shaken out their fragrant petals overnight." Looking down upon an orchard, the blossoms are like drifts of snow. On the tip of each twig, arranged somewhat in the fashion of a conventional bouquet, soft, fuzzy new leaves encircle a cluster of blossoms, pink on the outside and white on the inside with many golden tipped stamens standing at the center of each flower. Handsome boutonnières.

The apple tree in full leaf curtains to a restless wind. It shimmers in the sunlight, sifting light and shade, casting mobile shadows on the ground beneath. With its leaves it covers the nests of birds that build in its branches, and provides them with insects, handy at their door.

Bluebirds accommodatingly reared a family one year in a large knot hole in the trunk of our apple tree about four feet from the ground. A hollow snag in one of the upper branches housed a flicker family. These golden-winged woodpeckers (because of the golden lining to wings and tail) like to come back to the same nesting hole as long as they can. But the following year they found their nest occupied by starlings. Then grey squirrels routed the starlings and took over the apartment. The next year, however, the flickers were back. When the young were almost grown we would rap on the trunk and several little heads would pop out to appraise the situation. They were just as curious as we were. Swallows occasionally swooped low over the apple tree snatching a meal or two from the insects that would rise from its leafy head. Bats would do the same thing at dusk.

The apple tree welcomes bees and bumblebees at blossom time since it depends on these agents for pollination, and pays in terms



of nectar.

Some injurious insects are not welcome, such as aphids, scale insects, tent caterpillars, the larvae of the codling moth that works in the core of the apple, and the larvae of bark and wood destroying beetles. But bird friends that come and go, help to police the tree and find tasty meals. Downy and hairy woodpeckers, the nuthatch and brown creeper glean up and down the crevices of the gray bark. Chickadees and warblers check the twigs. Cuckoos come to feed on caterpillars. Orioles, robins and a host of other birds scan the leaves and branches for a variety of insects.

In the autumn the fruit ripens into globes of deliciousness. Comparatively young and well pruned orchards yield the cleanest fruit, but even imperfect apples from neglected trees are relished by birds, mice and rabbits; and later by foxes. Pine grosbeaks and chipmunks often feast on the seeds.

In the winter the framework of any tree is displayed without reserve. There are times when the moon plays hide and seek with branches that lift a delicate tracery against the sky. Apple tree characteristics are clearly seen then.

At one time or another our venerable apple tree, purveyor of beauty and charm, has exerted a profound influence on us. Hasn't yours?

### New Consultant Named by Rockdale

Mrs. Alma Peirce of 22 Pleasant St., Greenfield, has joined the Rockdale staff as color consultant in the Domestic department.

Mrs. Peirce has had many years of experience in home decoration and floral display throughout Eastern Massachusetts. The Rockdale management announces that she will be available to answer questions of customers about home decorating problems.

There are Rockdale stores in Turners Falls and Leominster. Mrs. Peirce will serve both stores.

**THE NORTHFIELD (MASS.) PRESS**  
Friday, December 13, 1957

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## Pioneer Valley Regional School

By Carol Gerrish, Senior

Wednesday at the first assembly for grades 9-12 David Billings, a member of the senior class, was chosen to represent Pioneer Valley school at Good Government day at the State house in Boston in March, 1958. Marianne Smith, a member of the junior class, who was elected as alternate will also attend. It is possible for the representatives to be elected to any of the offices of the commonwealth including governor, senator, state representative or other offices. David Billings and Marianne Smith are well qualified to be good government representatives. David Billings was vice president of his class and student council representative during his junior year. He was treasurer of the sophomore class and is now president of Connecticut Valley Federation of Youth Groups. Marianne Smith recently won the "I Speak for Democracy Contest" in Franklin county. She was secretary of her class in the sophomore year. She was student-of-the-week at Powers Institute in Bernardston last year. She was assistant editor of the Yearbook there and is soon to become worthy advisor of the Rainbow Girls in Greenfield. She is a talented artist and was winner of a Tri-State poster contest.

The third contestant was Cora Hurlburt. Campaign managers for the three contestants were as follows: for David Billings, Nancy Coates, for Cora Hurlburt, Charlotte Marcotte and for Marianne Smith, Rebecca Jackson.

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, we played our first game of the season with Frontier regional of Deerfield. Despite the rainy weather, about 550 people attended the basketball game. A fine school spirit was shown by all who attended. The J V game started at 6:45. Although our boys lost (30-13) they showed lots of school spirit. The following boys made points: Norman Deane 3, Ray Barnes 2, Mike Sloane 2, Joe Manser 2 and Len Petrin 4. We also lost our varsity game (39-10). These boys show great promise, however, and we know they will lead us to many victories. The following boys made points: John Thayer and Lee Kemp, 4 apiece, and Jerry Lesard, 2 baskets.

Our cheerleaders also did a fine job. Each one of the cheerleaders received a carnation corsage from the Frontier regional high cheerleaders. The white corsages looked lovely on the girls' uniforms.

Mr. Leonard announced the honor roll for the first quarter marking period. Report cards were issued yesterday and Lois Heselton

of the sophomore class and Peggy Streeter of the junior class received all A's for their outstanding work.

Those receiving all B's or a combination of A's and B's are: John Fallon, Doris Deane, Gloria Barrett, Harry Gonyer, Gail Whitney and Judith Townshend in the seventh grade; Carol Atwood, Sandra Petersol and Ruth Wood in the eighth grade.

In the ninth grade there were Daniel Fallon, William Glabach, Jon Greene, Joyce Martin and Beverly Phelps.

In the tenth grade Raymond Glabach, Diane Coutu, Jane Pratt, Sandra Quinlan, Judie Rice, Linda Streeter.

In the eleventh grade, Barbara Johnson, Rebecca Jackson, Dorothy Given, Richard Leach, Curtis Shine, Lewis Starkey.

Seniors were Nancy Coates, Cora Hurlburt, Charlotte Marcotte, Nancy Oakman and Harry White.

The first Pep rally of the year was held in the gymnasium Monday. It was evidenced by the amount of enthusiasm on the part of the student body that everyone was anxious to attend the first game. The cheerleaders did an excellent job of arousing school spirit. For the present cheerleaders will wear red and white gym suits, but later on they will have uniforms of their own.

The public address system is now complete with a speaker in each of the rooms, connected with the office. A person speaking into the microphone in the office can be heard throughout the building. In addition to the speakers, each room has a phone which can be used by the teachers to contact the office. If a person in the office wishes to call a room he pushes a certain button and a buzzer sounds in that room. Also connected to this system is radio-phonograph for use during assemblies.

Physical examinations were given Monday to all the boys interested in athletic teams. Dr. True of Northfield examined the boys. Tuesday Mrs. Streeter, the school nurse, weighed the boys and measured them.

Monday the election was held to decide the nickname for the school. Three choices were offered for consideration: Pioneers, Buckskins and Panthers. By a show of hands in each home room "Pioneers" was chosen by a very large majority.

Mr. Gancarz and Miss Eccles are already using the music room which was recently completed. The soundproof room located over the back of the auditorium is especially constructed with acoustical wall board in the background. The colors of blue, purple and green are most attractive.

Plans for the Christmas assembly, to be held on Dec. 20, last day of school before Christmas vacation, are in preparation. The band, under Mr. Gancarz, will play several Christmas carols and they will be accompanied by a choral speaking group of 30 members of the junior and senior classes. They will present the Christmas story, according to St. Luke. In addition to the band and choral group there will be vocal selections and dance numbers by individual members of student body followed by group singing. This is the first time that a musical and dramatic presentation will be made from the new stage. After the assembly, light refreshments will be served in the cafeteria to the entire school.

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## Pioneer Hoopsters Lose First Game

The basketball game, the first of the season, held on Tuesday evening, resulted in a defeat for the Pioneer team. The score, 36-10, was in favor of the visitors from South Deerfield. There was an unusually fine audience to view the game and the band added much to the evening's program.

It was the first basketball game to be held in the gymnasium at the Pioneer Valley regional school. The local team played the Frontier regional high school of South Deerfield. A play by play description of the game was broadcast over WHAI going on the air at 7:45. This sports broadcast was sponsored by Kidder and Co., the Northfield Washed Sand and Gravel Co., Spencer Brothers, Inc., and the Northfield I.G.A. Food Mart.

The game between Pioneer and Arms academy, of Shelburne Falls will also be broadcast at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Jan. 28.

At the first basketball practice session of the Northfield athletic association Monday evening at the Pioneer gymnasium there were 12

Ten years ago Mr. and Mrs. Robbin, Bob Curtin, Frank Turner, Bob Scott, Dick Williams, Bill Potter, Duane Bliss, Jim McComb, George Letourneau, B. Atherton, Duane Griswold and Teddy Messer.

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## Community Club To Sponsor Children's Party

Folks at Northfield Farms are busy with Christmas festivities. On Wednesday, Dec. 11, there was a meeting of the Community Club. The business meeting was followed by an adult Christmas party. Gifts were exchanged.

On Monday evening, Dec. 16, the annual Christmas party for all the children in the district will be held with gifts, candy and Santa Claus—in person. There will be a volunteer program with songs, instrumental music and recitations.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, there is a public card party sponsored by the Community Club.

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# The Northfield Press

It's fine to believe in yourself, but don't be too easily convinced.

Volume II, No. 8

Northfield, Massachusetts, Friday, December 20, 1957

Price Five Cents

## Christmas Music Program Heard

On Wednesday evening of last week the Parent Teacher association met at the Alexander hall for a program of music. The Mount Hermon triple quartet, directed by Albert R. Raymond, presented a group of anthems, Welsh airs, carols and campus songs.

An ensemble of students from the Pioneer Valley regional school band, directed by Eugene Gancarz, provided music for the Christmas story from the book of Luke, read by Margaret Streeter. In this group were Beverly Phelps; Lois Heselton, Gail Leonard, Judy Shippa, Peter Sargent, Joyce Holloway, Nancy Schouler, Joan Streeter, Brenda Billings, John Stacey, Henry Prescott, Paul Abbey and Michaelyn Caron. All sang Christmas carols directed by Mr. Gancarz with Mrs. Gancarz at the piano.

The attendance award of a record went to Mrs. Evelyn Parker's fifth grade.

The meeting was conducted by William P. Person, president.

Refreshments were served by a committee of fifth grade mothers: Mrs. Edward Tie, chairman, Mrs. William Forrest, Mrs. Stanley Bistrek, Mrs. Gilbert Stacy and Mrs. Walter Clark.

## Northfield Seniors Named Semifinalists In Scholarship Exams

Eleven seniors at the Northfield schools have been named semifinalists in the national merit scholarship competition, according to Dr. Howard L. Rubendall, president. The local students are listed among the 7,500 high scorers on the scholarship qualifying test, a nationwide college aptitude examination given in 14,000 high schools on October 22nd.

The semifinalists named today outscored 300,000 fellow seniors, and thus moved a step closer to the \$4 million in merit scholarships to be awarded in the 1958 program.

The Northfield schools semifinalists are: Carolyn Penta, daughter of Mrs. Martha Penta of Skidmore college, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., of Northfield School for Girls and the following from Mount Hermon: John F. Abel, son of Mrs. Marie L. Abel, Jamaica, N. Y.; Jonathan C. George, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. George, Syracuse, N. Y.; David R. Gwatkin, son of Prof. and Mrs. W. E. Gwatkin, Jr., Columbia, Mo.; Bruce E. A. Larsen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Larsen, Hempstead, N. Y.; James M. Lindholm, son of Rev. and Mrs. Paul R. Lindholm of Philippines; C. Marshall Munson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Raymond Munson, Johnston, R. I.; Alexis A. Panshin, son of Prof. and Mrs. Alexis J. Panshin, Okemos, Mich.; Robert M. Sprenkle, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Howard Sprenkle, Jr., Andover, Conn., and Walter C. Wheeler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Wheeler, Williamston, Mich.

## Speaker Discusses Circus Experiences

Ray Bickford of Bernardston will tell of his experiences as a circus clown at the meeting of the Kiwanis club Monday evening at Valley Vista Inn. Mr. Bickford has been interested in and has used clowning as a hobby for many years, known as Rayford, the clown. He is at present chairman of the Clown Clubs of America.

At next Monday evening's meeting the speaker is to be Harry McDonald who is at present studying at the center of middle eastern studies at Harvard university and who has lived for several years in Saudi Arabia.

## Girl Scouts Hold Christmas Party And Carol Sing

The Northfield Girl Scouts had a very special evening on Monday. They met at the Little House for supper and a Christmas party with with a perfect attendance of 51 girls.

The leaders, Mrs. Marshall Lanphear and Mrs. Robert Johnson were assisted by Mrs. Herbert Maynard, a member of the troop committee.

Later in the evening the girls went carol singing in Dunnell's truck driven by Richard Whitney. They called to sing for Mrs. Leslie Tyler, Mrs. Winfred Whitaker, Mrs. Charles Leach, Bronson's Nursing home, Robert Thomas, Mrs. Walter Hallam, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Douglas, Mrs. Iola Hodgson and Fred Kelley.

The Girl Scouts will not meet again until after the Christmas vacation.

## Friendly Group Holds Yule Party

The Friendly Group held a Christmas meeting at the Hart Nursing Home Monday evening. Mrs. Robert Barnes read the Christmas story from the Bible, carols were sung and gifts exchanged. Holiday punch and cake were served by Mrs. Hubert Eastman, Mrs. Owen Stacey and Mrs. Roy Barrows.

## Afternoon Alliance Votes Contribution

The Afternoon Alliance of the Unitarian church met Thursday afternoon at the church. Mrs. Oler Doolittle, president, conducted the business meeting and led the devotional service. Contributions were voted to the Salvation Army, the Morgan memorial and the Kurn Hattin home and \$50 to the church parsonage repair fund. It was also voted to distribute the Christmas baskets of fruit to shut-ins in the parish and to buy plants for two ladies who are confined to their home at present.

A letter of greeting was received from Mrs. Augusta Barry, a former member of the Alliance, now living in New Canaan, Conn.

Mrs. Virginia Powell McDonald was the guest speaker of the afternoon and all were very much interested in her talk about the people and their way of living in Saudi Arabia where she has made her home for several years.

Tea was served by Mrs. Joseph Morgan with Mrs. Constantine George, a member of the committee. Programs for the remainder of the organization year were distributed by the president, Mrs. Doolittle.

Meetings are listed as follows: Jan. 9, 1958, "Botany of the Bible," Mrs. Oler Doolittle. Hostesses, Mrs. Joseph Field, Mrs. Charles Streeter, Mrs. Clarence Spaulding.

Feb. 13, speaker, Mrs. Gertrude Whitney. Hostesses, Miss Mary Edena Pratt, Mrs. Charles Slate.

March 13, speaker, Rev. Charles D. Moore. Hostesses, Mrs. Leon Miller, Mrs. Charles Neal.

April 10, annual luncheon and election of officers.

May 8, music. Hostesses, Mrs. Annie Irish, Mrs. Frank Williams.

June 12, visit from the district director, Mrs. C. Elmer Richmond of East Longmeadow. Hostesses, Mrs. Carroll Miller, Mrs. Harold Bigelow.

Mrs. M. D. Birdsall of Clearwater, Fla., is leaving her uncle in Florida in the care of another branch of his family and is joining her husband in Middlebury, Vt., permanently.

## Nfld P. O. To Be Open Saturday until 5:30

The Northfield post office will be open this week Saturday night until 5:30 p.m. for the convenience of patrons who wish to send or pick up mail. The post office at East Northfield will close as usual at 12:30 p.m.

## Wrights to Note 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Allison Wright, former residents of Northfield, will observe their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday of this week from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. They will have open house to their friends at their home at 128 Fourth street, Turners Falls.

The Wrights were married at Coventry, Vt., Dec. 22, 1907. They have four children, Mark of this town, who lives on Warwick avenue in the home where his parents resided the many years that they lived in Northfield; Mrs. Ben Finney of Akron, Ohio; Mrs. Lloyd McLaughlin of Cleveland, Ohio, and Charles of Grafton, 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

They will be glad to welcome their friends Saturday afternoon and evening.

## GOP Town Committee To Support Candidacy Of Mrs. G. Woodard

At a special meeting of the Republican town committee held Monday evening the group voted to support Mrs. Gertrude Woodard of Turners Falls as a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Massachusetts Republican state committee caused by the resignation of Mrs. Marie F. Gordon earlier in the year. There will be a meeting of the local committee on January 7 to discuss the caucus to be held later in the month.

## Obituary Louise Zabriskie

Miss Louise Zabriskie, founder and director of the maternity consultation service, died Thursday at her home, 332 East Sixty-seventh street, after a long illness. She was 70 years old.

Miss Zabriskie, a registered nurse, continued and developed her work with mothers and babies after a serious automobile accident in 1922. Although she suffered a broken neck and was permanently paralyzed, she organized the service in 1939 and served as its director for eighteen years.

Born in Preston City, Conn., Miss Zabriskie attended Northfield seminary and Columbia university. She received her nursing degree from New York hospital in 1913 and was appointed night supervisor for Lying-In hospital.

She is survived by a sister, Miss Alice M. Zabriskie of New York.

## Domenic Antonelli

Domenic Antonelli, age 75, died on Saturday at the Northampton state hospital. He was born in the province of Rome, Italy, in 1882 and at one time was employed at the Northfield seminary. He is survived by his wife, four daughters and several grandchildren.

The Rosary was recited at the Kidder funeral home Monday at 4 p.m. and a high mass of requiem was held Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. at St. Patrick's church. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery.

Subscribe Today  
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## Selectmen Set December 31 Deadline For Articles in 1958 Town Warrant

### Former Resident Sings on LP Disc

The Westminster Recording Co. has announced the release of an LP disc recorded by the Masterwork Chorus of Morristown, N. J.

Among the 200 singers comprising the Masterwork Chorus is Mrs. James P. Ryan of East Orange, N. J. Mrs. Ryan, soprano, is the former Ruth Field, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Field of Main street, East Northfield. Born in Mount Hermon, Mrs. Ryan attended Northfield School for Girls, Oakwood school in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Stoneleigh Prospect Hill and Deerfield academy in Deerfield and Greenfield, pursuing music as well as academic studies. She was a member of the Estey chorus at Northfield school and also sang with the Westminster choir summer school in that town. Mrs. Ryan was a member of the professional choir at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church and Dr. Sockman's church in New York City and soloist with the Greenfield Christian Science church. She has organized and conducted mixed glee club.

The recording, Westminster No. XWN 16596, was made in Morristown in January of 1957. One side of the disc is devoted to works for double chorus by Allegri, Lassus, Lotti and Schuetz. The other side of the record contains the complete six movements of Monteverdi's poignant, "Tears of a Lover at the Tomb of the Beloved."

## Bernardston Church To Hold Vespers

Residents of area towns as well as the members of the parish of the Goodale Memorial United church of Bernardston are invited to attend a candlelight vesper service at the church Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. The program: Organ and piano prelude, "Joy to the World" Handel Dorothea Derry, organist; Daniel Fallon, piano

Call to worship  
Response by choir  
Hymn, "As With Gladness Men of Old"

Anthem, "The Shepherd's Christmas" Landon

Male quartet, "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Solo, "Gesu Bambino" Yon Mrs. Barbara Nutt

Scripture reading  
Pastor Darwin H. Nutt

Anthem, "Shepherds, Hark the Song" Daquin

Ladies' Chorus, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Duet  
Stephen Barber and Neil Churchill

Offertory, "Star of the East" Organ

Anthem, "Glory and Praise to God on High" Pury

Echos: Miss Lena Corkins, Miss Madeline Smithers, Mrs. Edith Butler, Stephen Barber, Kenneth Howard

Solo, "Star of Bethlehem" Adam Frank R. Foster

Ladies' Chorus, "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Male quartet  
Solo, "O Holy Night" Adams

Miss Smithers  
Anthem, "Hallelujah Chorus" Handel

Hymn, "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Benediction, response  
Postlude, "March of Wise Men"

A free will offering will be taken which will be used toward an amplifying system for the chimes which were installed last year.

We are hearing the rumbles and seeing signs that interest is being kindled regarding the annual town meeting to be held on March 4. When the town meetings were held the first week of February it was necessary to begin creating interest and even to hold a caucus before Christmas and now that by vote the meeting comes in March the habit of talking town meeting before Christmas seems still with us.

At the meeting of the selectmen on Monday evening work was begun on the preparation of the town warrant. The board has announced that all articles must be submitted to them by Dec. 31.

The Republican town committee will meet on Jan. 7 to discuss the plans for the annual Republican caucus to be held later in the month. The civic council is planning the annual discussion meeting on the articles of the town warrant which will be held on Feb. 27.

With the heavy demands on the taxpayers to support our extensive school system there is bound to be added interest this year in expenditures in all departments this coming year. My advice is to begin now to find out all you can about the needs for the coming year.

## W. Hawley Named Library Trustee

At this week's meeting of the selectmen at the recommendation of the trustees of the Dickinson Memorial library William H. Hawley was named as a trustee to fill the vacancy on the board caused by the resignation of Horace H. Morse who had served in that capacity for the past 14 years. This appointment is in effect until the next annual town meeting.

The selectmen have announced that pistol permits will be processed each Monday evening at the town hall at the board's regular meeting. A written application must be accompanied by three pictures of the applicant who must appear in person.

The name of Mrs. Lillian Tie was drawn for traverse jury duty in January and that of Kenneth Hall of Gulf road as grand juror for 1958.

## \$204.44 Collected for Retarded Children

Mrs. Doris Hale, chairman for the local collection of funds for retarded children, has reported a total of \$204.44 collected by the collectors who covered the town. Only \$7.32 of this amount had been placed in the containers displayed in various public places.

## St. Patrick's Guild Elects New Officers

At the meeting of St. Patrick's Guild last week at the church hall the following officers were elected for the coming Guild year:

President, Mrs. Stanley Wickey; first vice president, Mrs. George Butinski; second vice president, Miss Mary Ann Wozniak; treasurer, Miss Helen Podlenski; recording secretary, Mrs. Raymond Parienteau; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Adrian Gallant. Miss Mary Callaghan opened the meeting with prayer.

Mrs. Harry MacDonald was the guest speaker speaking about Saudi Arabia.

Miss Esther Ladzinski won the attendance award. Rev. Henry McKeon, spiritual advisor, closed the meeting with prayer.



# The Northfield Press

"The only newspaper in the world devoted to the interests of the Town of Northfield, Massachusetts"

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE NORTHFIELD PRESS  
Box 158, Northfield, Massachusetts

DAVID M. STRYKER, Publisher      Mrs. DOROTHY MILLER, Editor  
Mrs. EMMA MOODY POWELL, Correspondent

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Volume II, No. 8      Page Two      Friday, December 20, 1957

## CHURCH NOTES

### TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Rev. JOSEPH W. REEVES, Minister  
Mrs. F. H. MOSSE, Director of Christian Education

IRVING J. LAWRENCE, Senior Choir Director

Mrs. ROBERT P. BARNES, Pianist and Youth Choir Director

EUGENE GANCARZ, Youth Band Director

Mrs. BELLE MARDEN, Organist

9:45 a.m., Church School Christmas Program.

11 a.m. Christmas worship. Both choirs will sing. Organ and piano offertory. Sermon subject, "Wise Men from the West."

Pre-school age children attended by Mrs. Maurice Taylor. All school age children will attend church this Sunday with their parents.

5 p.m., a vesper service of Christmas music and readings. Both choirs will sing and the Youth Band will play. Miss Judith Holbrook, president of the Pilgrim Fellowship, will read the Christmas story in Luke.

The Christmas family supper will be served in the vestry Monday at 6:30 by Mrs. William A. Shattuck and her committee of Guild women. Each family is to bring hot meat or fish dish or a salad.

The annual white gift Christmas service will be held in the sanctuary on Monday at 7:15 p.m. Suggested white wrapped gifts: money, balls, children's books, dolls, games, toys, crayons and pencils. The money will go to children in Japan; toys, books and games to Sioux Indians and some American Negroes. All families of the parish invited to the supper and the white gift service.

The young people of the Pilgrim Fellowship will meet at the Aldrich store, East Northfield, Monday at 8 o'clock to go carolling. Later in the evening they will return to the church vestry for refreshments and a social hour.

A holiday dance is being sponsored by the young people. It is to be held in the Northfield town hall Friday, Dec. 27, 8 to 12 p.m. Music by Bardy's orchestra. It is hoped the public will patronize

this dance.

### NORTHFIELD UNITARIAN CHURCH

Mrs. L. P. GOODSPEED, Organist and Choir Director

RAY A. KNAPP, Church School Superintendent

Sunday, 9:45, worship service.

Guest speaker, Rev. Robert Sandcock, chaplain at the Northfield School for Girls; special Christmas music.

9:45, Church School for children of all ages.

### ST. PATRICK'S Catholic

Rev. HENRY McKEON, Pastor.

Rev. ANTHONY RZASA, Curate

10:30, Sunday morning mass.

There will be on Sunday school sessions on Dec. 22 or Dec. 29.

### NORTHFIELD BAPTIST

Rev. PAUL L. BUBAR, Pastor

SAMUEL A. BISHOP, Organist

Mrs. RICHARD NEIPP, Assistant Organist

Mrs. RALPH PERRY, Pianist

The Christmas program and tree for the church school will be held at 7:30 on Dec. 23. The committee, Mrs. Bernard Neipp, Mrs. John Fisher and Mrs. Arthur Stacy.

Sunday, 8:15 a. m., worship, WHAI.

10 a.m.—Sunday school, Mrs. William Messer, superintendent.

11 a.m.—Morning worship with sermon.

Nursery and junior church at same hour.

6:30 p.m.—Young People.

7, pre-evening service prayer.

7:30, evening evangelistic hour.

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Bible study.

Thursday evening, "Hour of Power" at 7:30.

### COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Rev. RICHARD GRIFFIN, Pastor

Miss HAZEL JOY MARCY, Organist

LAURENCE MARCY, Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday, 10:30-11:30, a.m., Sunday school.

11:30-12:30 p.m., worship service.

6:15 p.m., Young Peoples.

7:30, Evening service, with a special Christmas program by the young people.

Monday, 7:30 p.m., cottage prayer meeting.

Thursday evening a group will go to conduct a service at the Springfield Gospel Mission.

Friday, 3:30, Sing and Bring club.

Friday, 7:30 p.m., prayer and Bible study.

Saturday, 10:05-10:30 a.m., Sing and Bring club on WHAI.

### ADVENT CHRISTIAN SOUTH VERNON

Rev. EVERETT MOORE, Pastor

10:30 a.m.—Morning Worship.

## CROSSTOWN

By Roland Coe



"I would like something appropriate for a man who fishes but never seems to catch anything!"

## Dickinson Library Notes

Mrs. Florence Phelps, Librarian

For the remainder of the month, Mrs. Constantine George of Warwick avenue is displaying some of her hand-weaving in the reading room at the library.

In the exhibit are five different patterns with the prizes she received at the annual Women's International exposition in November. There is a small hand-loom made by her husband, and several samples of weaving by Mrs. George. There are samples of wool as taken from the sheep through the spinning, carding, washing, etc., to the finished thread ready for weaving. On the peg-board a colorful picture of a peasant girl with her distaff and spindle.

The patterns are beautiful and the texture of the cloth soft and fine and must be seen to be appreciated. Be sure to see this display when visiting the library.

At the last meeting of the Garden club it was voted that the club decorate the interior of the library as a project. Monday, Mrs. George Carr, Mrs. Harry Ericson and Mrs. G. Borden Granger placed wreaths in the two front windows and decorated the mantel over the fireplace with evergreen and Christmas bells. The staff is grateful to the Garden club for this courtesy and help in bringing a note of Christmas cheer to the public.

In the children's room, we have the usual "creche" scene in the north window.

The Garden club recently purchased three new books which have been placed in the library for the use of anyone interested. They are: "Complete Book of African Violets" by Helen Van Pelt Wilson; "Gloxinias, How to Grow Them," by Peggie Schulz, and "Organic Gardening," by Rodale. The "Horticulture" and "Flower Grower" magazines are also available.

The library recently received a copy of the book, "Portrait of an American Labor Leader, William L. Hutcherson," by Raddock, given anonymously.

Christmas books and stories have been much in demand by the children this year and books on "satellites" a close second.

Two weeks from today (Tuesday) marks the end of the Old Year. Next Tuesday the library will close at 6 p.m. for Christmas eve and will be closed all day on Christmas Day, but will be open as usual the rest of the week.

with a Christmas Message.

10:30 a.m.—Junior Worship.

11:45—Sunday School.

6:30—Loyal Workers.

7:30—Evening service.

The Sunday school will conduct a white gift service. The useful gifts and money contributed will be sent to the Dowling Park Home and Orphanage in Florida.

Thursday, 7:45 p.m., prayer meeting.

## SCHOOL NOTES

By Sally Sheldon

This week has been a very busy one for both students and faculty here at Pioneer Valley.

A pep rally was held in the auditorium on Monday to arouse enthusiasm for Tuesday night's basketball game with St. Michael's of Brattleboro. The 10 varsity cheerleaders are doing a good job of teaching the cheers to the student body.

Although Pioneer lost the junior varsity game with a score of 31 to 17, and although they also lost the varsity game after a good fight with a score of 43 to 37, both teams showed great improvement over their first game a week ago, and we are sure they will do even better on Friday night against Williamsburg. This game will be held at Pioneer.

Girls' basketball practice is being held regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays with the girls' coach, Miss Smiley, in preparation for the first game which is scheduled for January 10. On January 7, there will be a scrimmage with the Greenfield girls' team.

On Wednesday noon we were treated to a delicious Christmas dinner consisting of several courses. The helpings were unusually large and many students were not finished with their meal until ten minutes or so after the lunch period was over. The meal was very much like the Thanksgiving feast and included: mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, stuffing, turkey, cranberry sauce, sandwiches, ice cream and milk.

After school on Thursday afternoon first year home economics

girls will give a party for the teachers. The party will be held in the living room section of the home economics department. It will be the first party to be held in the home economics suite. Several girls will serve the refreshments and carry on conversation with the teachers. The menu, prepared by the sixteen girls of the class will include: fancy sandwiches, cookies, candies and punch. The table will be decorated with a winter scene done by Marsha Billings, Beverly Phelps, Diane Leach and Shirley Hartwell.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Pierce received a pleasant surprise on Sunday, Dec. 15, when they became the proud parents of twins, Jennifer Lynn and John Wayland, born at Brattleboro Memorial hospital. Mr. Pierce is the shop instructor at the school.

The book club has spent the last two weeks conducting mock court sessions. The next meeting will complete the series on this subject. Twenty-two members met on Dec. 16 under the direction of Mrs. Janet Young.

The Junior Red Cross drive was held this last week. Students contributed with generosity. The senior class was the only class to have 100% participation. The total amount collected was \$22.86.

Friday, there will be a school assembly in the auditorium. A choral speaking group, accompanied by band music, will read the Christmas Story according to St. Luke. Peggy Streeter and Gail Leonard will play solo parts in the band during the choral speaking. There will be dances by Elinor Powers, Michele Poneck and Marsha Billings. The glee club will sing "Oh Holy Night" and "Silent Night," with David Billings and Nancy Oakman singing solo parts. Besides this entertainment, Jessica Walker will sing and Daniel Fal-

Continued on Page Three

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## Social and Personal News Notes of the Northfield Area

The book sale at Mt. Hermon took in \$498.28 in a three and one-half hour sale.

Midst all the adult mutterings about chains, snow tires and winter can be heard the joyous voices of small children, especially Mrs. Harry McDona's four little "Arabians."

Rev. Lawrence Durgin brought his mother, Mrs. Russell Durgin, from his home in Providence, R. I., to her home on Glenwood avenue Wednesday. Mrs. Durgin will continue to recuperate alone there for the month of December and will spend Christmas day with her mother, Mrs. Lazelle, and her aunt, Mrs. Symonda, at the Valley Vista Inn.

Mt. Hermon library has received a memorial gift. For many years Miss Jane E. Bigelow was "one of the most brilliant teachers on the Mt. Hermon faculty." She taught Latin. Upon retirement she moved to Amherst where she lived to the age 93 and where she became active in the Women's Tuesday club. This club has given in her memory 15 books that have to do with Rome, or Italy, or writers of our classic literature. William Morrow says, "The gift is a great tribute to a great lady."

The Northfield Baptist church and nine other youth groups had a roller skating rally in the Roller-dome in Brattleboro. More than 250 attended. The Baptist church will have its Christmas party Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m. The committee is Mrs. Bernard Neipp, Mrs. John Fisher and Mrs. Arthur Stacey.

A Northfield man was united with his mother whom he has not seen for 38 years. Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Lopez of Maple street went to Logan airport to meet his mother, 87, who flew in from Madrid. Mrs. Natalia Lopez is a native of Cuerno, Spain. She will make her home with her son's family. This has been an exciting year for this courageous lady for her grandson, Lt. Lopez of Northfield, visited her in Spain this summer while on European duty.

Mrs. Hazel Kimball and Mrs.

Gloria Billings served a supper to 20 at the No. 4 Community club, with favors and Christmas decorations.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ingalls celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Sunday from 2-5 p.m. in the Vernon Union church.

Several members of the Friendly Twelve Christmas club in S. Vernon attended the Ice Capades in Springfield.

Mrs. Myria Dorodell of Alberta, Canada, has come to spend the winter with three sisters, two of whom live here, Mrs. E. Blodgett and Mrs. Spears.

On December 12th a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie A. Gibson of South Vernon; grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gibson. Mother and child are in the Franklin County hospital.

### Mt. Hermon Christmas Concert

Crowds of students, parents, alumni and friends packed the Mt. Hermon chapel long before the Christmas concert started at 4:45 on Sunday. With only the light of 198 candles an atmosphere is created there which for one perfect hour makes people feel that the Prince of Peace has come to this worried suffering world. Added to the candlelight, the voices of about 48 of the best girl singers from Northfield and about 100 boys' voices was the thrill of the winter scene outside the chapel. Through the long panel windows one could see a magnificent sunset, and, next, in the southwest the evening star. As the crowd silently left the building they were greeted outside by a massive lighted tree. Every year the traditional songs are sung such as "Silent Night" and "The First Noel" and each year one or two "new" songs are added. Especially stirring this year was an old Scottish carol, "What Strangers Are These?"

Mr. and Mrs. "Dick" Reeves have moved into a home with the address Brooks road, R.F.D., Wapping, Conn.

Mrs. Blanche Walker Hiller expects to visit Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hyde during Christmas week. Her home is in Providence.

A Christmas letter has come from W. James Krist who made his home here for many years. Participants especially miss his wonderful men's class at the Congregational church. He is making his home in Denver where his daughter lives.

Mr. and Mrs. "Johnny" Bassette who were married in October, are making their home at 950 Logan street (6), Denver 3, Colorado. Mrs. Bassett's mother and father are great skiers as well as the young couple.

Miss Lillian MacDonald, for many years an English teacher at the Northfield School for Girls, and for several summers hostess at the Moody birthplace, has now the address 12 First street, Parkdale, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Isle, Canada. She writes, "We are having such a wonderful open winter. No snow yet but lots of rain which I love."

Miss Sadie McEwan has gone to Chicopee to spend a few days and Christmas with her brother, William McEwan, and his family.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Greenwood leave Saturday for Cleveland, O., to be with their son, John, and his family.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Moody returned from their two months' visit to their daughter in South Africa Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Mrs. Alice Seeley, head of Moore cottage, will spend the holidays in the Faculty club of the Northfield School for Girls.

Friends of William Hoeft are glad to hear that he is recovering from a very bad fall he had two weeks ago on the first slippery, snowy day. He was carrying an oil can up his back steps when he slipped and broke two ribs.

Miss Miriam Trowbridge has returned from a month of visits in and near Boston, Philadelphia and New York.

The wreath made by the Girl Scouts for the war memorial on the school grounds is much admired by all.

Pfc. Boris Oblesow of special services, Fort Polk, Florida, sends his greetings to his home town in a card sent to the civic council. It reads: "My thanks goes out to you folks for everything. My very best thoughts and wishes are with you on the coming holidays."

Friends are glad to hear that Mrs. Alice Mosse is recovering from the fall she had at open house at Pioneer Valley school when she bruised her vocal chords.

The Mt. Hermon Sunday school will hold its program and family party Sunday. The religious play written by Mrs. Pack Baldwin will start at 4:30 p.m. The committee will furnish dessert and coffee at the informal supper that follows and afterwards there will be carol singing.

At 8:15 in Sage chapel the English and physical education departments are putting on a special Christmas service.

Donald Martin, 5, of Maple street slipped at school and broke his left wrist and it will be in splints for six weeks.

Saturday evening Mr. and Mrs. Harry McDonald will be guests of the history departments of the Northfield schools at Mt. Hermon. Monday evening Mr. McDonald will speak at the Kiwanis meeting at the Valley Vista following supper. He is studying at the center of middle eastern studies at Harvard university.

Four Boy Scouts received awards at the Monday meeting: Peter Sargent, Michael Book, Leonard McCasle and Jonathan Mayberry. The Scouts will decorate for the holiday record dance in the Congregational vestry Dec. 30.

"Whitey" Streeter of the Farms appeared at the I.G.A. store Monday with a large wild cat he had shot in the Warwick hills. He was looking for Wally Stange and his bounty.

A letter from the Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Buffum who gave up their home here and went to Lake Wales, Florida, says, "We hope it warms up before the folks from the north arrive. Last night it was 19". Froze all of our lovely poinsettias and other flowers. The Northfield Press is a welcome visitor in our home each week. We do enjoy reading the news from

'back home.'

Charles Llewellyn held a meeting of Kiwanis officers and chairmen of committees at the Northfield hotel Sunday evening. Mrs. Llewellyn and Mrs. George Leonard helped serve refreshments.

Several local people attended the seventh presentation of Giotto's Frescoes of the Nativity given in Kirby Memorial theater, Amherst college.

A nice Christmas party will be held at the home of Mrs. W. R. Moody from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. The Guild is putting on this Christmas sale and silver coffee.

Editor's Note—The press correspondent, Mrs. Powell, would appreciate it if you would share with the Press any news of old Northfield residents which you receive on Christmas cards or otherwise. As for example the following item:

A Christmas letter from Lt. Robert H. Domey, 42 TAC recon. Sq. A.P.O. 123 New York, says that he is flying jet bombers in Germany with 1½ years more to serve. After that he plans to "return to Columbia to get a doctor's degree in international relations." Bob Domey spent 14 months in the Powell household, 1946-47, when he was in 7th and 8th grade and will be remembered by many boy and girls in their early twenties.

## News Notes

Horace Field, town clerk, has announced that he has hunting, fishing and sporting licenses for 1958 that can be issued for those who desire them. He is at his office from 3 to 5 p.m. each day. Such a license would make an inexpensive Christmas present for and some of the ladies would be interested, too.

At the Brattleboro Memorial hospital on Dec. 16 twins, a son, John Wayland, and a daughter, Jennifer Lynn, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Duane I. Pierce of Library street, Bernardston; grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, Jr., of Wallingford, Vt., and Mrs. Gertrude Wetherby of Northfield.

Miss Bernice Webster left on Sunday to spend the winter in the warm southland. She will visit friends, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Cummin at Griffin, Ga., for the holiday season and then do graduate work in art for the winter term at the University of Georgia at Geneva.

## School Notes...

Continued from Page Two

Ion will play two piano selections. Following the assembly, refreshments consisting of ice cream and cookies made by the homemaking department will be served in the cafeteria. Instead of exchanging gifts as in previous years, the student body will make donations to the Salvation Army.

In order to lessen the confusion involved in getting seated for assemblies in the auditorium, a seating plan is being arranged in order of seniority.

The name of Leslie Deane, grade 8, was inadvertently omitted last week from the honor roll. His name should have been included in the "honor" group.

We are now looking forward to a long Christmas holiday starting on Friday, Dec. 20, at 3 o'clock and lasting a full two weeks until Monday, Jan. 6.

### Change of Auction Dates

Auction Scheduled	Will Be Held
Tues., Dec. 24	Mon., Dec. 23
Tues., Dec. 31	Mon., Dec. 30

### Northampton Co-op Auction

M. H. Fiske, Manager  
Phone Northfield 888 before eight o'clock each Tuesday morning.

On Nov. 26th, in Nagoya, Japan, a daughter, Michelle, was born to A-1c and Mrs. Gerald A. Brown. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. M. Carleton Brown, who lived in East Northfield for several years, while Mr. Brown was on the high school faculty. He says, "Needless to say we are thrilled to pieces with a granddaughter as the other child is a boy."

The chimes in Russell Sage chapel on the campus of the girls' school played Christmas carols on Wednesday afternoon and were much enjoyed by those who could hear them in East Northfield. They were given by F. H. Revell in memory of his wife, Josephine Barbour Revell.

Mrs. Virginia Raymond, contralto will be a soloist in the Pioneer Valley symphony's presentation of Handel's "Messiah" on both Saturday and Sunday evenings in the Greenfield high school auditorium. Mrs. Raymond teaches at the Northfield School for Girls and is director of music at the Second Congregational church in Greenfield.

Mrs. Guy C. Blossom of the Vernon home, a former East Northfield resident, has received word of the birth of a great-grandson, child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blossom, Jr., born Dec. 7 at Mercy hospital, Springfield.

### Miss Janice Thompson Weds Kenneth Butler

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson of East Northfield have announced the marriage of their daughter, Janice Marie, to Pfc. Kenneth M. Butler, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kenneth Butler of Bernardston, on Dec. 8, in Augusta, Ga. Mrs. Butler is a graduate of the Northfield School for Girls, 1954; attended Boston Children's Hospital School of Nursing one year, the Hiltner Secretarial school, class of 1956, and is employed as office nurse for Dr. Merle Ingraham of Greenfield. Mr. Butler graduated from Powers Institute in 1952 and enlisted in the army in March, 1957. He attended radio school at Fort Gordon, Ga., and is now in Germany. Mrs. Butler is making her home with her parents.

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## Through a Kitchen Window

What was the Star of Bethlehem and where did it come from? With so much interest focused on outer space and interplanetary travel, we are even more conscious of its origin. With Christmas near, we search for some kind of a satisfactory explanation as we look toward the night sky, and wonder about the beautiful story of the Christ child and the Star that guided the three Wise Men to Bethlehem.

Many theories have been advanced and possibilities suggested. There is still a great deal of speculation about the Star of the Nativity. Some believe it to be of miraculous origin. Others think it can be explained astronomically. You may have your own thoughts about it. Some day perhaps we may really know.

If you are already a sky watcher or star gazer and find the constellations a delightful hobby you will know Sirius, the brilliant dog star that follows Orion, the hunter, across the southern half of the heavens. Sirius, the most brilliant of all stars in our skies, flashing blue, rosy or white, is the most famous of all stars in the literature of the ages. You may also recognize the planet, Jupiter, a morning "star" that dominates the east this December.

At this same season even brighter in the western sky we see the planet Venus just after sunset which will become brighter until December 23rd. On December 24th with the aid of the moon you may be able to see Venus even in broad daylight, say between two and three in the afternoon. If the moon is clearly visible Venus will be about a dozen moon diameters below it toward the southern horizon. A good eye can see it if the day is clear.

Some authorities have felt that Venus, which is then fifteen times brighter than Sirius, actually was the star of Bethlehem. Yet, if Venus was familiar to all the peoples of the eastern world and to the Wise Men who were versed in astronomy and knew the paths taken by the planets, they surely must have known Venus well. Even today nomad Arabs regulate So perhaps there is another theory.

There are those who believe that the light that shone so wonderfully long ago was the coming together of several planets. During their movements across the sky, two, occasionally three, planets may appear to pass very close to each other though in reality they are many millions of miles apart.

In 4 B. C. Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest planets, were very close together in the sky.



The conjunction of planets may produce unusual radiance and they will appear fused into a single start. Might such a striking occurrence have been the Star? Yet the conjunction of planets lasts only a matter of hours and the Bible tells us that the light shone for a period of weeks.

It is entirely possible that the Magi, who in all probability believed in astrology, were able to foretell the birth of Christ from the position of one of the planets in the zodiac, and that when the planet moved out of that particular position, it was still referred to as His star and used as a guide by the Wise Men. This seems an interesting and plausible possibility.

In the Bible we find a passage — "the star which they saw in the East, went before them." This star whether a familiar one or a new and uncommon one might have been visible only in the eastern sky for a short period before dawn, then lost in the brightness of the new day. Therefore it might have been ahead of the sages at the beginning of each new day. It "went before them."

For those who like to believe the star was something more unusual and striking than a planet, there is one possible explanation that seems to fit the Biblical text and yet is sufficiently novel to surprise and startle any who saw it. Something that dominates the sky for weeks at a time might conceivably be a comet which might appear as a bright star with an enormous tail. Because comets appear without warning they cause alarm, and in olden times portended unusual happenings. Possibly a comet appeared just before the birth of Christ, and may not be seen again for a hundred thousand years. The Wise Men could have seen a comet pointing toward the eastern horizon at dawn, to fade as the sun rose, and be in almost the same place the next morning.

Yet another theory takes us far out into outer space, to the stars themselves. Most of these stars shine with measured steadiness through the years and appear the same century after century. However, some new stars, called novae, may become "celestial atomic bombs" and dominate the sky with spectacular brilliance.

More unusual than the novae are the super-nova stars that with no warning suddenly increase a thousand million times in brilliance. Astronomers observed one such star in A.D. 1572, so bright it was visible even in daylight. And there have been others. This phenomenon is said to occur two or three time in every thousand years. Could this then have been the Star of Bethlehem and if so, is it any wonder that those who saw it were filled with awe?

Harmar

## Backyard Gardener

By Alfred W. Bolcourt, Professor  
in Floriculture, College of Ag-  
riculture, University of Mas-  
sachusetts

Last week you may have read Backyard Gardener on "Collecting Your Greens." If you followed my suggestions, then you are ready to make a few decorations to brighten your home for the Christmas holidays.

For several years I have recommended that first you make a wreath on a wire or sapling hoop; second, make a spray of greens for your front door or your fireplace mantle. Then, if you have additional time, make other decorations.

Well, times have changed, or probably more to the point, interests in my own family have changed. The children have grown to the point where they are more involved in community activities, especially around Christmas. As a family we have tried to do as many things as possible together. But each year it becomes more difficult.

If you have ever made a wreath, you realize that it may take an hour or more to make your first wreath. The more you make, the less time it should take. This year maybe you should buy your wreath of just greens and then add a bow, cones, berries and other ornaments.

Sprays are easily made by tying three or more branches of evergreens of varying lengths and adding a bow and other ornaments. With these out of the way, the

family should be able to allot two hours to other decorations.

Greens will last much longer if placed with their ends in water. Also, by so doing, you will reduce the fire hazard. Low, shallow containers are more adaptable for mantle or table decorations than a tall vase. Greens can be easily held in place by the use of a pin-point holder stuck to the bottom of the container with a piece of modeling clay. By having the greens in water, you can keep sprigs of holly, hemlock and other short-lived greens in attractive condition through the holidays.

Ribbons, cones and other ornaments are easier to insert in your arrangement if first you wire each one separately to a large toothpick or small stick. Cones are especially difficult to arrange when left on a branch. Simply loop a fine wire (No. 18) under the scales at the base of the cone. Grapes, apples, nuts and other fruit can also be wired and used in your decorations to add variety.

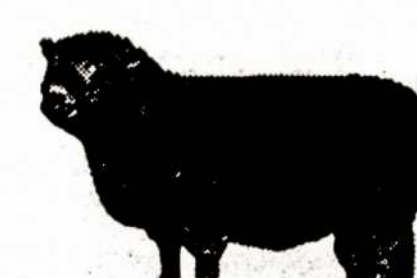
The customary work bee for making Christmas decorations will be remembered by the whole family and will be far more important than the presents exchanged.

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